

West Nile Virus

prevention is the best protection



① Remove mosquito breeding areas near your house

- Empty water from flower pots, pet dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans weekly.
- Clean out clogged rain gutters.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Remove discarded tires, buckets, and other items that could collect water.
- Recycle old bottles and cans.
- Dump water from tarps or plastic sheeting.
- Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your home.



② Protect yourself when mosquitoes are active

- Avoid peak mosquito hours. Mosquitoes are usually most active from dusk to dawn.
- Wear long, light colored pants and shirts.
- Make sure doors and windows stay closed or have screens.
- Consider using an insect repellent.

③ Report dead birds to the health department

- Call (509) 582-7761 to report a dead bird.
- Please note the location, type of bird, and if the bird possibly died from injury (such as a car, cat, or other impact)

When dealing with West Nile virus, prevention is your best protection. Fighting mosquito bites reduces your risk of getting infected with West Nile virus, along with other diseases that mosquitoes may carry.

Reporting Dead Birds

If you find a crow, raven, magpie, jay, or raptor and the bird is fresh and undamaged, please report the bird to the health department.



If you find another type of bird or if the bird is not selected for testing, you may be asked to dispose of it in your garbage.

All bird reports are important, even if the bird is not needed for West Nile virus testing. Locations of bird deaths are mapped and the information is used to detect areas that may have West Nile virus or other activity. These areas may be targeted for increased surveillance and prevention efforts.

Disposing of Dead Birds

Although dead birds do not spread West Nile virus directly to people, do not handle dead birds with your bare hands. Instead, use gloves, a shovel, or a plastic bag to pick up the bird. Double-wrap the bird in two plastic bags before putting it into your garbage. Wash your hands when you are done.

Report dead birds found in Benton and Franklin Counties by calling the Benton-Franklin Health District at 509-582-7761 ext. 246.

Benton-Franklin Health District
Environmental Health Division
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